



Department of Justice

United States Attorney A. Brian Albritton
Middle District of Florida

Tampa Orlando Jacksonville Fort Myers Ocala
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JANUARY 30, 2009
<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/flm/pr>

CONTACT: STEVE COLE
PHONE: (813) 274-6136
FAX: (813) 274-6300

**ST. AUGUSTINE MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FALSELY CLAIMING
HIMSELF AS A PURPLE HEART RECIPIENT**

Jacksonville, FL - United States Attorney A. Brian Albritton today announced that Charles T. White, a 68-year-old resident of St. Augustine, pleaded guilty to falsely claiming to be a recipient of the Purple Heart medal, in violation of the Stolen Valor Act. The maximum penalty White faces is a term of imprisonment of two years.

According to court records, White admitted that he wore a Purple Heart medal, in ribbon format, on various occasions over the past year. He also made false verbal claims on numerous occasions over the same time period that he was a Purple Heart medal recipient. In September 2008, White was selected to give the keynote address at a Naval Air Station Jacksonville ceremony honoring former prisoners of war and those missing in action. Prior to the event, White gave an interview to the Naval Air Station Jacksonville newspaper, in which he claimed to be a four-time Purple Heart recipient, and he repeated his claims at the event. White now admits that all of his assertions regarding his receipt of four Purple Heart medals were false.

The case was investigated by the Naval Criminal Investigative Agency and prosecuted by Special Assistant United States Attorneys Ron DeSantis and Jonathan McKay.